

M Hawaii MARINE

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THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 3, 2007



Highlander
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Haleiwa
B-1



Hummer
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Dungan takes charge of MCBH

Cpl. Chadwick deBree

Combat Correspondent

Brigadier Gen. Steven A. Hummer will relinquish command of MCBH to Col. Mark A. Dungan during a change of command ceremony today at Dewey Square at 10 a.m. Hummer is headed to Marine Special Operations Command in Tampa, Fla to serve as chief of staff.

Dungan began his Marine Corps career in July 1975 after graduating boot camp and became an electronics technician on the OV-10 "Bronco" for Marine Observation Squadron 1. He was selected for the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program in 1979 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1982.

After completing the Basic School and Naval Aviation Flight School, Dungan qualified to fly the CH-53E "Super Stallion" helicopter." He was then assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 in June 1984 and participated in two Landing Force Sixth Fleet deployments with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 as part of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

He attended the Weapons and Tactics Instructor School in January 1987 and was designated as a CH-53 weapons tactics instructor.

From June 1988 to May 1992, he was assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., where he participated

See DUNGAN, A-2

Changing hands



Cpl. Stephen Kwietniak

Brigadier Gen. Steven A. Hummer became commanding general of Marine Corps Base Hawaii in 2005. He will relinquish his command to Col. Mark A. Dungan in a change of command ceremony today at Dewey Square at 10 a.m.

Documentary salutes Hawaii's veterans both past, present

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Combat Correspondent

The Waikiki Ballroom at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki was filled July 26 with smiling faces of all ages who awaited the premiere of the Hawaii Veterans Project documentary.

The documentary was a labor of love for Kathleen Larson, the executive producer of the project. Larson and

the documentary's host, Charlie Garrett, contacted and interviewed veterans who served in every branch of service since World War II.

"Charlie called me and asked me to get involved in the project," said Ernie Boerlin, a former Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class stationed here as an aviation support equipment technician for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Marine Aircraft

Group 24. "I was glad to be part of it and very glad they did it. I wish people would do more stuff like this."

The documentary searched for a way to help Hawaii veterans tell their stories, Larson said. The goal of the project was to help preserve former Hawaii-stationed service members' first-hand war accounts, before they them-

See VETS, A-4



Photo Illustration by Kelli Huffman

A Marine Corps Administrative Message released this week modifies the current Marine Corps Order P1020.34G governing Marine Corps Uniform Regulations regarding seasonal and off base utilities regulations.

New policy to affect K-Bay

Cpl. Chadwick deBree

Combat Correspondent

Marines stationed here have changed their daily uniform.

According to All Marine Administrative Message 035/07, the desert Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform will be worn throughout the summer months with sleeves rolled up and woodland MCCUU will be worn during winter months with sleeves down.

"For the past few years, our Corps has been in a transition phase with regard to our utility uniforms," General James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, said in the ALMAR. "That time has ended. As Marines, our uniforms and military appearance are an important part of our identity and have traditionally marked us as the nation's most distinctive military service. As such, uniformity and an outward pride in our appearance have been constants for every Marine – from private to general."

For Marine Corps Base Hawaii, that means Marines will comply with the message and wear the desert uniform with sleeves up in the summer.

However, according to U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Public Affairs Office, MarForPac submitted a waiver to allow Hawaii Marines to wear sleeves up during the winter months.

"Personally, I like it, it makes us more uniform with each other," said Sgt. Rex Gonzalez, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, S-1, Headquarters Battalion. "You used to see people walking around base with the woodland cammies then some with deserts. With the new policy it gets everyone on the same page."

The ALMAR also gives guidance on when Marines are allowed to wear utility uniforms off base.

Marines are not allowed to wear their MCCUUs off base unless there is a bonafide emergency such as medical emergencies, vehicle breakdowns or vehicle accidents.

The only time Marines are authorized to wear utility uniforms off base is commuting to and from work in a privately owned vehicle or using an off-base establishment with a drive-thru such as drive-thru automatic teller machines, fast food restaurants or dry cleaners.

"The off base thing doesn't affect me really because I never really went off base in my uniform anyway," Gonzalez said. "It's one of those things that was just etched in my brain since I joined, that we don't go off base in our utilities."

With the new uniform policy out, Marines here will continue to comply by wearing the appropriate uniform.

"The purpose of this ALMAR is to

See POLICY, A-2

America's Bn bids farewell



Corporal Nicholas R. McWilliams, radio operator, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, holds his 16-month-old daughter, Madison, one last time before boarding a bus that took him to Hickam Air Force Base where the battalion boarded a plane to head to Iraq, Tuesday. For the full scoop on 3/3's deployment, catch the next issue of the *Hawaii Marine*.

Cpl. Chadwick deBree

—News Briefs—

Geographical exceptions for Aikahi Elementary School

Geographical exceptions for Aikahi Elementary School are now being accepted for students in grades: Kindergarten, First, Third, and Sixth. There are approximately 40 slots open for students in these grades. For more information, please contact Aikahi Elementary at 254-7944.

Geographical exceptions for Kailua Elementary School

Geographical exceptions for Kailua Elementary School are now being accepted for students in grades: K-5. There are approximately 25 slots open for students in these grades. Please contact Kailua Elementary at 266-7878.

Operation Homefront goes Back to School

Operation Homefront of Hawaii wants to lend a hand to military families and get their children ready to go back to school. We recognize the sacrifices military families make and with the help of the community we hope to bring a moment of joy to our military families. We're now collecting new school supplies at all five Lex Brodie locations. We need supplies for children of all ages.

To receive school supplies or for more information, contact Operation Homefront of Hawaii at 866-569-9185.

MARSOC

The Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command Recruiting team will visit here Sept. 3. The brief will be held at the Civic Center in classroom 5 from Sept. 3 to 6 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Screenings will be on the 6th and 7th at 4:30 a.m. at the base pool. Marines from all military occupational specialties are sought after. For more information, contact Sgt. Knospler at 760-763-5102.

Golf Outing and Luau

The dental staffs at Naval Health Clinic Hawaii and the 21st Dental Company are hosting a golf outing and luau for dental corps officers, spouses and guests from all armed services in Oahu August 17. They would like to extend an invitation to all Marine Corps and Navy officers, spouses and guests here. The golf event begins at noon and the luau starts at 6 p.m. For more information and to make reservations, contact Gregory Kvaska at 257-3100.

Marines Needed for Recruiter Assistance

Want an opportunity to earn promotion points and spend up to 30 days at home without taking leave? The Fourth Marine Corps District is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants. The Fourth District covers Washington, D.C., and all or part of the following states: Ohio, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact your recruiter or log onto <http://www.4mcd.usmc.mil/PTAD.asp> for a map of the Fourth District area and the point of contact for your hometown.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii MARINE

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Giving back

Not only to the Corps but to the community



Pfc. Brian A. Marion
Combat Correspondent

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to help some cadets who were in various

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs around the United States who came here to participate in a leadership school.

I and the other troop handlers who volunteered to stay with the cadets throughout the whole week were instructed to be stern with the cadets so they'd get a small taste of what every Marine has gone through.

As the days moved on, we had the opportunity to watch the cadets learn and grow as leaders. The instructors and handlers looked after the cadets, showing them how to properly lace their boots, give the proper greeting of the day and other customs that make the Corps what it is.

At the end of each day, we

usually looked back onto the events that unfolded and decided who was doing well in the class. As each day passed, something happened I didn't expect: I began to like these little bug-gers.

I began to like the ones who accidentally saluted without their covers on, who were chronically ill or injured and the ones who were squared away. It seemed like the more time I spent with them, the more of me I tried to instill upon them.

Then it hit me. Some of these cadets might eventually become part of our Corps. These cadets, whom we are helping to mold into leaders, might be the ones carrying on our traditions. They might be the future of our Corps.

They're a part of the community we created. Shouldn't we give back to the community that allows us the chance to help mold their children into leaders?

I never thought I'd say this, but it was actually fun working with those cadets. It was fun seeing them in formations, and I could almost hear their heels striking the ground occasionally. It was kind of funny watching some of their expressions as they left the gas chamber. Their faces at Landing Zone Boondocker, as the CH-53D passed over a few of them was priceless.

I now understand why service members continuously volunteer their free hours to help the community. It's to give back to the community. It's a way of thanking them for their support.

Highest honor



Pfc. Brian A. Marion

Brigadier Gen. Steven A. Hummer stands alongside the Marine Corps Community Services Family Advocacy department after they were awarded their accreditation. Family Advocacy and Counseling Services recently received their accreditation from Council Accreditation. It is the only FACS department in the Marine Corps to receive this accreditation with "Highest Honors" and met all 43 standards with no deficiencies and had 43 best practices identified.

DUNGAN, from A-1

ed in Operations Desert Shield and Storm while attached to HMH-464.

He was then transferred to Tustin, Calif., and deployed with HMM-164 on the 15th MEU as the CH-53E Detachment officer-in-charge during Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

Dungan was assigned to HMH-361 and deployed to Okinawa, Japan, and participated in Operation United Shield in Somalia, as the CH-53E Detachment OIC with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267.

He attended the College of Naval Command and Staff in Newport, R.I., and was assigned as the amphibious warfare officer and naval operations chief in the current operations division at U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla.

He took command of HMH-366 here in 1998. He was then assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 24 as the operations officer and later executive officer.

While assigned to MAG-24, he deployed to East Timor

where he served a joint billet as the operation officer and executive officer for U.S. Group East Timor.

Dungan left Hawaii in 2003 to attend the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn.

In July 2004, he assumed command of Headquarters and Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific at Camp H.M. Smith.

In December of that year, he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the commander of Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa.

He returned to MarForPac a year later.

He assumed duties as deputy commander of Marine Corps Base Hawaii July 16, 2006.

His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two stars, Air Medal, Strike Flight 3, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Navy Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

POLICY, from A-1

enhance that uniformity; to further define what are considered emergency stops off-base in the Marine Corps Combat Utility

Uniform; and to prescribe seasonal wear and appropriate locations for the MCCUU while in garrison," Conway said in the message. "This ALMAR applies to the active and reserve force."



Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind around 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. East wind around 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 84

Low — 75

Saturday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind between 14 and 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 77. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 84

Low — 77

Sunday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 85. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 76. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 85

Low — 76

Highlander applies ‘ounce of prevention’ to Mawtini

**Story and Photos by
Cpl. Ryan C. Heiser**
2nd Marine Division

COMBAT OUTPOST RAWAH, Iraq

— Someone once said, ‘an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.’ First Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, is applying this truism to their operations in the Iraqi desert.

The battalion is part of the regimental-wide ‘Operation Mawtini,’ which kicked off July 15. This operation closely followed ‘Operation Harris Ba’sil,’ which gave the regiment a wider picture of enemy movement patterns and was intended to provide more focused operations in the critical enemy areas. Data gathered by military officials showed an increase in enemy activity during this time of year.

“We anticipate that the terrorists will attempt to step-up their attacks in the urban areas to gain power and influence over the population,” said Col. Stacy Clardy, the regiment’s commanding officer. “We’re hunting them down so that doesn’t happen.”

First LAR launched Company C, also known as the ‘Warpigs,’ in support of the operation, which covered most of the battalion’s area of operation across the north-eastern side of the Euphrates River. In addition to the Warpigs, the battalion also had several attachments and Iraqi Security

Forces participating in the first stages of the operation.

“We projected our force into our AO, showed our presence, talked to people and gathered a lot of information,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas R. Johnson, a platoon commander with the company. “That’s a large part of what LAR does; it’s even in the name: reconnaissance; we gather information. I think this operation is the right answer to some of the problems we have seen in the past. Continually going out in force, and continually showing our presence is definitely working in our favor and producing results.”

During the first week of the operation the battalion and its attachments, commonly referred to as ‘Task Force Highlander,’ found three weapons caches and storage areas and detained two Iraqis suspected of insurgent activity. Some of the things they recovered were: propane tanks, a truck rigged with a detonation trigger, electrical wiring, detonation cord, (16) 10-gallon drums of nitric acid - 14 of which were rigged with detonation cord, several small-arms weapons including AK-47’s and a submachine gun, 59 fully loaded AK-47 magazines, (100) 9mm rounds, (880) 7.62 mm rounds, a shotgun, a house rigged with several explosives and a Ruchnoi Pulemet Kalashnikova medium machine gun, commonly referred to as the Kalashnikov or an RPK.

“We have done an amazing job so far disrupting AIF [anti-Iraqi forces] presence in the North [of the Euphrates River],” said 1st Lt. Ryan C. Stewart, the battalion’s intelligence officer.

The battalion’s focus during the operation is to deny insurgents the ability to conduct a surge of activity and setting the conditions for continued Iraqi government and Iraqi provincial leadership.

“So far we have provided stability and security for the Iraqi civilians, and we are disrupting AIF movement from urban areas. We are stopping them from fleeing into the open terrain and preventing them from getting back into the cities to disrupt security,” said Stewart, who is serving his second tour to Iraq.

The operation not only includes Marines, soldiers and Sailors, but also Iraqi Security Forces. The Warpigs had several Iraqi Army soldiers attached to their light armored vehicles who participated in house searches and questioned Iraqi civilians about insurgent activity.

Marines in the battalion say they’re confident the remainder of the operation will go as smoothly as the first week has, and they remain optimistic about the overall goal of provincial Iraqi control.

“The ISF needs to take over, so it is essential and imperative that we include them on operations like this and take them along with us so we can continue to teach them,” said Johnson, from Elbert, Colo. “They need to know how to counteract insurgents and fight insurgent activity, so they can continue this work after we are gone. And they will. They have done a good job so far, and they will continue to do it after we are gone, so long as we continue to train them and teach them what we know.”



Corporal John P. Wallis, mortarman and scout team leader, Company C, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, walks through a small village during Operation Mawtini.



A Marine with 1st LAR, RCT 2 stands guard in the turret of a light armored vehicle as the day comes to a close.



Corporal John P. Wallis (center), mortarman and scout team leader, 1st LAR, RCT 2 and his team of scouts search a house during Operation Mawtini.



Staff Sgt. Thomas R. Johnson, platoon commander, 1st LAR, RCT 2 walks from a truck the company found, which was rigged with a detonation trigger and believed to be intended as a vehicle borne improvised explosive device. The company used fuel and an incendiary grenade to safely destroy the vehicle and deny its use against coalition forces.

1/12 Marine KIA in Iraq



LYNCH

Lance Corporal Robert A. Lynch, 20, of Jefferson, Ky., died July 24 of wounds received while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Diyala province, Iraq.

Lynch was an engineer equipment mechanic assigned to 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Lynch joined the Marine Corps May 2006 and reported to Hawaii in January. He deployed to Iraq in March.

His awards include the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Sea Service Deployment ribbon.

VETS, from A-1

selves can't tell them.

“Our goals are to gather the memories and the memoirs of Hawaii’s veterans from World War II to present conflicts,” Larson said. “This documentary is just a drop in the bucket for what needs to be done for Hawaii’s veterans.”

The hour-long documentary made its television premiere Saturday on the FOX network. It was complete with an introduction and conclusion by James Bradley, author of “Flags of Our Fathers” and “Flyboys” whose father, Petty Officer 2nd Class John Bradley was a flag raiser at Iwo To, which until recently was known as Iwo Jima. The introduction and close out were originally filmed at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii’s Pacific War Memorial, but the footage was lost and re-filmed two days before the premier, Garrett said.

“I think Kathleen and Charlie did a great job,” said Toby Rushforth, a retired Air Force colonel who served in Vietnam and now works as a civilian contractor at Camp Smith. “They managed to capture all the things service members did in the past and relate their stories to what today’s warriors are experiencing. It’s wonderful to be around young people who volunteer for the service.”

After well wishes were extended to today’s service members and thanks given to the local businesses that participated in the project, Larson closed out the evening with a thank you to all the veterans who participated in the project.

“Thank you, Hawaii veterans,” she said. “Mahalo for graciously sharing your stories, a



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Charlie Garrett, host of the 2007 Hawaii Veterans Project documentary, offers his thanks and appreciation for everyone involved in the making of the documentary at the premier, July 26. The documentary aired on the local FOX network Saturday, and will air again on Veteran’s Day.

part of your lives so we can always remember.”

When the evening ended, veterans from every war since WWII, including the Global War on Terror, shook hands and congratulated Garrett and Larson on the success of the documentary.

“I think it was fantastic,” said John S. Carroll, a retired soldier. “I love it that they got service members from today. I’m proud to see folks who will volunteer for service. I’m just so glad somebody’s doing something for the veterans.”

MALS-24 awarded for improving aviation

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi
Combat Correspondent

The first Enterprise AIRSpeed Site of the Year 2007 ‘Battle A’ award was given to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Marine Aircraft Group 24, June 21.

The award was shared with the Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic Site Norfolk, and was given in recognition for outstanding continuous process improvement.

“Receiving the award was a mixture of surprise and pride in the work that the unit has been doing,” said Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Hopkins, AIRSpeed chief, MALS-24.

AIRSpeed is a process improvement system for Naval aviation. The “Battle A” award was given in recog-

nition of efforts in process improvement, Hopkins said. The Marines and Sailors of MALS-24 have been working hard to make things better around the unit, helping save money, time and eliminate the amount of waste MALS-24 produces.

“The efforts the unit puts in helps give Marines and Sailors more time to do the things they do,” Hopkins said. “This way work doesn’t cut into their personal time. There’s a lot of sites around the Navy and Marine Corps that are doing a lot, but we’ve been aggressively pursuing this for a few years. We’ve attacked this more as a culture thing instead of a process.”

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 was the first AIRSpeed site around the Navy and Marine Corps to set up

an AIRSpeed Lab. The AIRSpeed Lab is a separate building from the rest of the wing and has a classroom-like atmosphere allowing for learning about different improvements that can be done in the unit.

“Our overall goal is to improve aviation,” Hopkins said.

The unit has benefited from the five members of the AIRSpeed crew, which is evident with the “Battle A” award hanging on the wall. The award was presented to the entire squadron.

“It was a squadron-wide initiative,” Hopkins said. “All 600 Sailors and Marines of MALS-24 earned it. Most of the work is MALS work, we just steer them. It’s like they say, ‘stop spending tomorrow’s money on yesterday’s aircraft today.’”



Courtesy photo

The Enterprise AIRSpeed Site of the Year 2007 award was presented to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 and Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic Site Norfolk during the inaugural Enterprise AIRSpeed Summit, June 21. The two AIRSpeed sites were the first sights to ever receive the “Battle A” award.



Pfc. Achilles Tsantariotis

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Cathy Alana with her son Kekoa and two dogs Jasmine and Isis stand outside the Animal Care Clinic on base after a visit to the clinic to have their dogs examined.

Base animal clinic offers new service

Pfc. Achilles Tsantariotis
Combat Correspondent

The Animal Care Clinic on base is allowing walk-in appointments on Thursdays.

The clinic will host it every Thursday. A sheet is available to sign for an expected time to provide a smooth operation.

“We want to be able to get more people into the schedule and allow more people to come at their convenience,” said Lindsay Lodham, a clinic representative.

The clinic, which previously held constraining hours and was difficult for busy pet owners to schedule, changed the policy to allow more pet owners to walk in and get the necessary care for their pets, like routine vaccinations and minor care.

working animals, said Army Sgt. Chet Stugus, an animal care provider.

“I want to emphasize that, while we do provide care for personally owned animals to service members, we suggest getting a primary veterinarian so people don’t show up at night with an animal needing help and find no one there,” Stugus said. “We want to help as much as we can, but it’s mainly short-term care we can provide, and these hours should help allow people to come in on short notice.”

Many patrons are appreciative for whatever help they receive and think the clinic does an excellent job with their loved animals.

“I’m extremely confident in their ability to assist my dogs, good animal care is as important as a good doctor,” Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Cathy Alana said. “I can say I’ve tried calling and had a hard time getting in touch with someone at the clinic. I love the fact I can come on Thursdays if something happens and my dogs need attention.”

The animal care clinic has extended the service and hours of operation to better serve the Kaneohe Bay community and have seen a growing amount of patients in the weeks since it started accepting walk-ins.

“I have seen a good amount of people come in since they found out we started offering the all-day service,” Stugus said. “I’m glad to see we can help.”



Debbie Seagle

Greg Poe flies over the northwestern coast of Puerto Rico during an April airshow this year. The Idaho aerobatic pilot performs near Aguadilla in his red MX-2, which was modified to use ethanol made from corn or sugar.

Pilot reaches height of dreams

Christine Cabalo

Photojournalist

As an aerobatic pilot, Greg Poe’s life has taken more than its fair share of turns.

He’ll be one of several civilian performers landing at Kaneohe Bay for the 2007 “Blues on the Bay” airshow. The aviator from Boise, Idaho, has toured as an aerobatic pilot since 1992, and he’s been flying planes since he was a teenager.

“It was exciting for me at my first airshow,” he said. “Performing was always something I dreamed about doing. I would watch at the sidelines during airshows and be amazed. I’d see the pilots I admired from afar. Now, I’ve been able to meet with and become friends with them.”

Living out his dream, Poe flies in his red MX-2 doing aerobatic maneuvers in more than 15 airshows a year. He’s placed his own twist on flying, performing for crowds with powerful spins of his plane. One of his signature moves, the Poe Pinwheel, requires the pilot to seemingly cartwheel in the sky with his plane.

His favorite maneuver is called Newton’s Folly. He carefully controls his plane in a nose-over-tail tumble to the ground. Audiences may not realize how often he’s practiced to make the move as if he’s spinning like a falling paper airplane.

“It’s something I started doing almost 10 years ago,” Poe said. “When I’m in the cockpit doing it, it’s the greatest thrill imaginable. It’s like my own personal magic carpet where you

can see everything in all its three dimensions.”

Poe said he’s refined his flying by initially learning aerobatics with Wayne Handley, a retired Navy pilot and airshow performer. The two trained together before Handley founded his own marketing company for pilots. When the aerobatic pilots have down time from their schedules, they go fishing and bird hunt in places such as South Dakota. In the 15 years Handley has known the pilot, he said his former student flies an intense show.

“It’s hard to be original in this business,” the retired Sailor said. “He’s developed his own maneuvers that people enjoy.”

Handley introduced Poe to the pilot’s current sponsor who designs

ethanol fuel production plants. Since June 2006, Poe has flown in planes using the renewable source. The aerobatic coach spoke with President and Chief Executive Officer Ron Fagen after an aerobatic contest. Poe said he was compelled to make the switch to ethanol after finding out from Fagen about the fuel’s benefits such as increased horsepower.

“Having an aerobatic plane that runs on ethanol helps show others its value as a fuel source,” said the MX-2 pilot. “I wouldn’t be doing the kinds of things I do if I didn’t have confidence in it.”

If he can schedule it, Poe said he’d love to visit some of the purposed ethanol sites in Hawaii where the fuel is made from harvesting sugar. All gas sold on Oahu is blended with ethanol

and most cars are designed to handle at least 10 percent of ethanol in their fuel.

The Idaho aviator enjoys several community outreach efforts, including meeting with school children in his outreach program, “Elevate Your Life.” He speaks with elementary and high school students about finding their passion in life. Poe’s desire to fly and his connection with other aviation fans was apparent to Handley since the retired Navy pilot saw him fly.

“He was the most intense pilot I’d seen back then,” Handley said. “People would be cheering and clapping after he landed. Then he’d get out of the airplane, and he didn’t have anything else on the plate. He’d be red-faced, sweaty and you could tell he just gave his 100 percent to the crowd.”



Debbie Seagle

Greg Poe signs an autograph for a young fan during one of the 15 to 25 airshows the pilot performs in each year. The MX-2 aviator has been flying planes since he earned his pilot’s license as a teenager. Known for his gyroscopic spins, the pilot said his favorite maneuver is called “Newton’s Folly.”

Leaders to improve equal opportunity climate with educational awareness

Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii — The Head Quarters Marine Corps’ Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management Team will be conducting command visits and command climate seminars Aug. 6 to 10 here and at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

According to Master Gunnery Sgt. Larry Murphy, Equal Opportunity Advisor, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, the events will give leaders a Corps-wide perspective on equal opportunity issues, enabling visibility and lending credibility to issues that may be affecting the individual commands.

The seminar will be split into two sessions, one

for officers from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and one for the staff noncommissioned officers from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pollack Theater August 7 and at the MCBH Chapel August 8 and 9.

“The target audience is the staff [noncommissioned officers] and officers,” Murphy said. “If the leaders understand how to assess and handle these situations it will trickle down to their subordinates.”

Murphy and Master Sgt. Joy Zeine, Equal Opportunity Advisor, MCBH, will conduct seminars on equal opportunity for junior Marines at a later date.

The seminars will consist of training and a review of previous Marine Corps Climate Surveys.

These surveys are one of the many tools used by the Corps to study perceptions of individuals on

the command’s climate where it concerns sexual harassment and discrimination.


It’s sent to approximately 25,000 randomly selected active duty Marines and 18,000 reserve Marines.

“It is a massive Corps-wide survey that is briefed to the commandant and Congress,” Murphy said. These seminars are not mandatory, but leaders are highly encouraged to participate.

“It gives the staff NCOs and officers the perceptions and stereotypes of their peers and subordinates,” Murphy said. “It will help them to improve upon or keep an already positive command climate.”

Murphy and Zeine are the points of contact for the seminars and can be reached at 477-8647 or 257-7720.

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AROUND THE CORPS

‘Road show’ visits Task Force Highlander in Iraq

Cpl. Ryan C. Heiser
2nd Marine Division

COMBAT OUTPOST RAWAH, Iraq — For many Marines, the end of their first term of duty could be the end of their career in the Marine Corps. For others, it’s just a beginning. In either case, as the end nears it’s important to have all the facts and information available so Marines can make the best decision for their careers.

The monitors’ ‘Road Show’ visited the Marines of Task Force Highlander on July 16 to ensure the Marines got the information they needed to explore their options as their terms of enlistment come to a close.

“The retention assistance visit is designed to aid career retention specialists, but more importantly it is designed to aid individual Marines and the Corps as a whole,” said Staff Sgt. Jackie L. Hansen, the career management team liaison for reserve affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The team of monitors, called the ‘Road Show,’ may change but their goal remains the same.

“The team always changes, but we make sure there is at least one monitor here to speak on behalf of the MOS’s that may not be present. The road show goes all over and there are sometimes more than one at a time. The effect is that we get to help a larger area of Marines, and it spreads our attention to all of our Marines,” said Hansen, from Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

On their visit to Iraq, the group of monitors scheduled stops to 13 outposts and bases over a three-week period. They aided in over 70 reenlistment packages at Combat Outpost Rawah, Iraq.

“The monitors were here to focus on facilitating first term retention efforts and assist in increasing the size of the Marine Corps. They entertained requests about bonuses, special incentives, duty station preferences, lateral moves, and provided general information on career options,” said Staff Sgt. Tim. M. Wray, the career retention specialist for 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2.

“The road show is when we do the deals,” Hansen said. “The gloves are off, and we are welcoming our Marines with open arms. We provide instant orders and duty assignments; we guarantee special duty and other preferences provided the Marine signs up today. It’s like a free-for-all one-time-offer thing, and it makes the Marines happy.”

“I’m really glad they came,” said Cpl. Jeremy W. Alexander, a team leader with the battalion’s Company D. “They explained a lot of things I didn’t understand and laid everything out for me. If it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t have known how to go about trying to get into recon. Thanks to them I’m submitting a package, and I got a really sweet deal.”

Alexander, from Cedar Park, Texas, went on to say the visit increased the Marines’ morale.

“This takes a weight off our shoulders. Now we know what road we are on and what to expect. Before there were all these ‘what if’s,’ but now we all know what it is we want and exactly how to go about getting it,” Alexander said.

“It makes me happy that they are happy,” Hansen said,

indicating the Marines around her. “It’s good to see them all get what they want, and they deserve it, they really do. They deserve whatever they want.”

Hansen went on to say it was important for the Marines to meet the people who control their careers.

“Too often the image these guys get is a faceless entity behind a desk moving them around like chess pieces and that’s just not the case,” Hansen said. “This gives them a chance to see we are people just like them, and we are willing to do whatever we can to take care of them. If they come in with an idea of what they want, generally speaking they leave with a guarantee.”

Wray, from St. Charles, Mo., agreed with the importance of face-to-face meetings between the Marines and their monitors. He said the effect on their morale and the ease of mind is what influences Marines toward their career decisions.

“This opportunity to actually interact with the decision makers motivates Marines to explore their options,” Wray



Cpl. Ryan C. Heiser

Marines with Task Force Highlander, Regimental Combat Team 2, speak with military occupational specialty monitors on July 16. The monitors visited with Marines at Combat Outpost Rawah, Iraq, and a dozen other bases and outposts during their road show tour through Iraq.

said. “Even the ones who were undecided or had decided not to reenlist got the chance to get information

and sort out the facts to help them make an informed decision.”

Marines can contact their

monitors over the phone, e-mail, in person, or by using their chain of command. For more information about

monitors and how to speak with them, contact your unit’s career retention specialist.